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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Application of David Potts

Serial No. 10/053,284

Filed: 1/17/02

For: Heating a leach field

Date: December 18, 2003

Examiner: Fred Prince

Art Group: 1724

Atty. Docket No. 2104

To: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT OF CLAIMS

This is in response to the office action of August 18, 2003.

Applicant encloses a check for $55 as payment for a one month extension of time which is hereby requested. Please charge any fee deficiency, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-0711.

Applicant provides a replacement paragraph on a separate sheet, to replace the paragraph on page 9, and to replace "Atty. No." with a serial number.

Applicant has amended claims as shown in the attached listing of all claims and argument hereinafter is made in such context.

Most claims were rejected in the office action. Claims 16, 27 and 29 were objected to, and indicated as being allowable if written in independent form. Applicant defers doing that for now, inasmuch applicant seeks to persuade the examiner to reconsider and withdraw or alter the rejection to the base claims as now amended, for other reasons.

Pollution Remediation Art vs. Wastewater Treatment

Examiner primarily relies on Basile et al. as basis for rejection. Applicant objects and submits that Basile and the related pollution-remediation patent art is non-related-field prior art. In wastewater treatment systems, in particular in leach fields having conduits with influence zones, etc., the object is to introduce contaminated substances into the soil, so they can be aerobically treated, on an on-going or repetitive basis. Thepresent invention is described in such context, and the gentle heating aspect helps the natural treatment process.

The Basilen and Aines patents are from the un-related but well-known field of pollution remediation. The point of Basile and like cited as references is that contaminants, e.g., the "non-naturally occurring hydrocarbon contaminants" such as those found in petroleum, trichloroethylene, etc. have been deleteriously introduced, and have to be physically attacked and removed. See Col. 4, line 16-26. In other words, remediation is aimed at removing chemical toxic waste in an anaerobic environment. Thus